

Appendix G

Definitions of Relevant Terms

Definitions of Relevant Assessment Terms

Anchor Paper – A student paper that is an example of a score point described on a rubric. Anchor papers are used with the applied skills sections of ISTEP+.

Constructed-Response and Extended-Response Questions – Test questions or tasks that require students to create his or her own response. Examples would be short answer questions, essay questions, or questions that require students to show their work.

Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) – A test linked to predefined content standards and designed to measure student achievement of the content standards. In relation to ISTEP+, the term means the criterion-referenced test questions that have been designed to measure the *Indiana Academic Standards* in English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Indiana Academic Standards – Refers to the statewide academic standards indicating the skills and knowledge base expected of a student at a particular grade for a particular subject area.

Mixed-Format Test – A test that uses a variety of test items, including multiple-choice, short answer, gridded response, constructed response, extended response, essay questions, and performance tasks.

Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) – A test referenced to norms based on the performance of other students across the nation, designed to compare student achievement relative to other students' achievement.

Scale Score – Student achievement levels relative to the *Indiana Academic Standards* are reported as ISTEP+ scale scores. The three-digit, equal interval scores are expressed on unique scales by subject (English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies). ISTEP+ scale scores typically range from about 300 to 850.

Scoring Rubrics – A set of standard rules and procedures used to assign scores to students' responses to short answer, essay questions, and performance tasks.

- **Writing Applications Rubric** – This rubric assesses students' ability to communicate their ideas effectively. The Grades 3-4 rubric has three major categories: 1) Ideas and Content, 2) Organization, and 3) Style. The Grades 5-12 rubrics have four major categories: 1) Ideas and Content, 2) Organization, 3) Style, and 4) Voice. Under each major category are specific criteria that describe the category more fully.
- **Language Conventions Rubric** – The Grades 3-4, 5-8, and 9-12 rubrics assess students' ability to use grammar, usage, and spelling conventions. The Language Conventions rubrics are directly linked to the editing checklist in the grades 3-8 grade-level test books.
- **Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Reading Comprehension Rubrics** – Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies rubrics are used to score the constructed- and extended-response items; a reading comprehension rubric is used to score English/language arts constructed-response items. The rubrics are also accompanied by exemplars (a list of acceptable responses) for test items assessing science and social studies. If a student gives a response that is not listed as an exemplar, but the response is correct and justified, the student receives credit for the response.

Student Report – The Student Report includes the student’s name, grade, class, school, corporation, and state, as well as the test date. The report displays student progress regarding the content measured by the assessment and also includes the student’s score by performance level (e.g., *Pass+*, *Pass*, *Did Not Pass*).